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28 February 1980

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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U.S. MILITARY AID, CARTER DOCTRINE CRITICIZED

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 28 Jan 80 p 6

[Article by Ahmad Baha'-al-Din]

[Text]

"Arms are not what we need.... there is no use.... no use." These were undoubtedly the words said or felt by every Arab as he heard the much publicised speech of President Carter. Moreover, these must have been the words of the great majority of people in the underdeveloped world. It seems that the US has not yet understood the world outside, especially the Third World. It is either this or that the US does not want to understand.

The American reaction towards foreign events, including those of the Arab and Islamic world has not changed since the days of Harry Truman and the Palestine tragedy and up to the age of Carter and the Afghan disaster. Along the line of eight presidents and eight presidential elections the American reaction has been as rigid as ever. Thirty-six years have elapsed since the Second World War and the emergence of the US as the greatest power in the world with long hands reaching the seven continents of our globe. As American embassies grew to occupy some spot or other in almost every part of the world, the world has also seen the emergence of American companies, the American fleet, American intelligence and thousands of American experts and university professors and specialists in every field under the sun. And yet, the American reaction towards foreign events is still the same: rigid and inexplicable. This is a fact that makes one wonder

whether America does not really understand the world or the world does not understand America.

The international news agencies have been beating the drums and creating expectations on the expected speech of the American President.

Those news agencies are not really international, in the sense that they do not reflect the world news or world affairs as seen by the world. They are American or European and strong; their strength and the strength of those whose news they reflect makes them more widely heard.

Such news agencies claimed that the expected Carter speech was so important that it would reveal what is termed as "Carter Doctrine" like that of Truman, Eisenhower, and before them Monroe who proclaimed that the US will not allow any intervention by a foreign state in the affairs of South America.

We, with all the good intentioned people of the world, believed that Carter had something new to tell us; we hoped that there would be change after the upheavals of the last decade which ranged from internal violence to external confrontations in Vietnam, Iran and Afghanistan.

One-third of a century has passed and the American solution to all threats directed at her interests has been one, though taking different forms, namely that of arms. The use of American arms has been made

either directly, that is by the US armed forces as in Vietnam and elsewhere on smaller scale, or by threats without actual use of arms such as the deployment of American combat units here or there or moving the Sixth Fleet to a specific location in the sea. Another form of the use of arms used to be embodied in military pacts, like the NATO in Europe, the Baghdad Pact in the Middle East, the CENTO pact in Western Asia and the SEATO pact in Eastern Asia. Sometimes the use of American arms took the form of direct military aids of formidable supplies of hardware and most sophisticated fighter planes, etc. This has been the case for the past third of the century. And yet the world has been changing in a way contrary to that desired by the US.

We have been living, and we could continue to live, perhaps forever, in a world that use force as its chief weapon. Force is the possession of arms and the ability to use it or threaten with it. In such a world we don't expect the great powers to dismantle the wings of their armed planes and replace them with wings of angles. And yet the problem in-so-far as America is concerned is that the US can see nothing beyond force, despite the fact that she lost a great deal of what she tried to achieve by force. Moreover, the US believes that what is adequate for one place should be suitable for all places.

NATO has been a success, but NATO became possible after the Marshal plan which put Europe back on its feet. NATO is composed of industrial countries which are in natural alliance with America, within an official treaty or without one. Thus the treaty is an establishment of something that is already in existence. But the problems of Europe are not those of India, Pakistan or Iran. Europe is not Asia or Africa. For this

simple reason NATO has survived while other pacts have collapsed.

The problem in Iran was not that of arms. Iran was rich with Military pacts and arms. But all that came down in a crash under the pressures of social, economic, political and cultural issues. And yet, after what happened in Iran, America is quick to "support" Pakistan. In what way? Arms and loans for arms.

Zia-Ul-Haq has been considered a repugnant military dictator whose government, according to the American press, is suffering from political isolation. Pressmen have been publicly flogged under the instruction of his regime in the same way fornicators have been punished. His opponents fill Pakistani prisons, parties have been banned while elections have been postponed time after time. And yet he has suddenly become the preventive barrier for the free world against the Soviet invasion.

Undoubtedly the people of Pakistan are angered by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Moreover, the Pakistanis must be worried about such an occurrence taking place in an adjacent country. But the people of Pakistan have other problems, more tangible, to worry about.

They suffer more from poverty and underdevelopment, as well as the absence of democracy and the lack of human rights. But that suffering has not struck the US; only one problem is apparent to her. The problem as is seen by the US is that Pakistan is situated on the borders of the Soviet Union on one side and that it borders the Indian Ocean on the other. What the US has not learnt is that the real barrier between the Soviet Union and the warm waters must be a developed country with its people participating effectively in the governing political system. If the people of this country see military force growing in the hands of a regime repugnant to them

leaving their social state unchanged, the military force will be as alien to them as the governing regime, and as it was alien to the people of Iran. This state of affairs will be exposed to a crashing collapse under any pressure.

Perhaps at this point we should remind ourselves that the West has never stopped criticising Indira Gandhi as a dictator. And yet that dictator did not win the election with the popular 99.9 per cent. And Indira is back in power and no one fears the collapse of India because Indira truly represents that nation, both in its dignity and with its problems.

The same thing applies to the Arab world and the Islamic countries. In his speech Carter offered his arms and military pacts but could not offer anything really constructive. He could not make any offer that would suggest a changed stand towards the Palestine issue or Jerusalem, although such a change would have produced a more positive effect that thousands of his aircraft or tanks cannot equal. He has kept the explosive bomb of the region as it is and did not try to remove its detonator. Instead he offered to surround it with pacts, guns and planes. This is all because Israel is still more important to the American President, particularly in the election year.

Thus, the case remains that when the US President speaks he speaks to the American electorate and not to the world, and so long as Israel has a bearing on the elections he will stay above justice and human rights, even though such a course is contrary to US interests in the long run and even if such a course does away with American friends.

People of the world, you are no concern of the American President, he speaks only to his electorates, nothing new and there is no change despite the same repeated mistakes.

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

INTERVIEW WITH YASIR 'ARAFAT ON CURRENT SITUATION, PROSPECTS

Paris HUMANITE DIMANCHE in French 2-8 Jan 80 pp 24-25

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat by Martine Monod in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] Fifteen years ago on 1 January 1965 the PLO, founded in May of the previous year, was carrying out its first act of armed resistance. Since then it has grown and has increased its international influence. But the Palestinian problem remains at the heart of the Mid-East crisis. Martine Monod went to Beirut to ask Yasir 'Arafat what he thought of the present situation and what the prospects were.

[Question] Fifteen years following its founding, the PLO has taken on international political dimensions. It has increased its influence and just recently achieved significant diplomatic successes. But at the same time we see the setting up of a whole system aimed once again at denying the Palestinian people their national rights and at attempting to settle the problems of concern to them without their legitimate representatives. On the one hand how do you assess this progress, this forward thrust by the PLO? And, on the other hand, what do you think of the unrest in the Middle East's current situation?

[Answer] Our greatest success is having put our people back on the area's political map after they were cast off of it by an imperialist conspiracy. I remember that in the 1950's the American Secretary of State [John] Foster Dulles replied when questioned about the destiny of the Palestinian people, that they have none because: "Unfortunately for them, these people have been crushed!" Today these "crushed" people, their cause, their resistance, their revolution, are the main factor in the Mid-East equation. If one wants to keep the Palestinian people away, there will be neither peace, nor stability, nor security in the area. That is certainly the PLO's most remarkable achievement: Transforming a wretched people consisting of refugees, each with a number in the UN agencies' files into a people capable of taking on this major significance. At the present time, the states recognizing the PLO are twice as many as those having relations with Israel. What happened recently in Havana and at the UN is a perfect illustration of what I have just said.

These achievements by our people have not only had an effect on their own future but also on that of the entire Middle East. Beyond any doubt the PLO played an active and effective role in the entire area's political choices. An influence, it must be noted, that was fully revealed immediately after Camp David. At the time, when the USA-Israeli-Egyptian tripartite alliance led Sadat under cover of a spurious peace to impose the maintaining of oppression and the occupation, we saw in the occupied territories a massive counterthrust by the Palestinian people who refused despite the threats to let themselves be seduced by the false pretences proposed to them. They stood up to them. As they stood up beside the Lebanese people to the war launched by Israel using the most deadly and most sophisticated American weapons such as napalm and fragmentation bombs. Despite the loss of thousands of martyrs, killed, wounded, mutilated, despite the destruction of refugee camps, villages, even of a few towns, despite all that, they stood up to it.

One must certainly not ignore the broad scope of the conspiracy which the Palestinian people and the Arab world must confront. But through the meetings of the Steadfast Front and the Arab summit conference in Baghdad and Tunis, we have reached a joint political stand against the aims of the Camp David partners. And it is a thumping success when one thinks of the menaces proffered and the pressures exerted!

I will add that we also succeeded in compensating for Egypt's defection by the victory of the Iranian revolution.

[Question] Within the general context of the Middle East, a special word on Lebanon. What is the significance of the Lebanese Army's redeployment in the south, now under discussion?

[Answer] Israel is maneuvering constantly to maintain tension in Lebanon. With their puppet Haddad as a cover, the Israeli Army is still occupying more than 1,000 square kilometers in the south...

[Question] Which amounts to a 10th of the territory!

[Answer] Yes! Now that the Lebanese Army has succeeded in reconstituting some of its units, the Lebanese Government has expressed a desire to deploy it in the southern part of the country. In the past we always made it easier for the soldiers the Beirut government wished to send there to go down south. But Israel has always objected to their approaching the area under its control, just as it has always opposed the coming of UN forces.

At the Tunis conference we took up that issue. It was decided that the PLO would continue its cooperation policy and a quadripartite commission was appointed by the summit to organize its implementation.

[Question] What does the PLO propose specifically to resolve the Mid-East crisis in a just and durable way?

[Answer] Implementation of the UN decisions. Since the PLO was admitted to the UN as an observer, several resolutions (particular 32-36) clearly define what the basic rights of the Palestinian people are. The right to go back. The right to self-determination. The right to establish its own independent and sovereign state. And we give favorable consideration to any international effort working toward that end, especially if carried out through the UN.

At the time of the joint Soviet-American communique of October 1977, we welcomed it as a valid basis for discussion. But the United States reversed its decision and sent Sadat to Jerusalem to capitulate. At Camp David they came up with that lure of "administrative autonomy," which in fact offers the Palestinian people nothing other than a new enslavement. Even the Bantus of South Africa have more rights than what this "autonomy" would allow us!

The United States Government, that of Israel, continue to wish to ignore the Palestinian people and their national rights. Begin and many Israeli officials are stepping up their racist statements. Tons of lies are used daily against us, our resistance, our future state. One of those lies, and not the least, consists in saying that a Palestinian state would be a threat to the peace of the area and of the world. That is a monstrous calumny. To implement the UN resolutions is to satisfy the Palestinian people's inalienable rights. So how could they represent a threat? Furthermore, where does the threat arise today?

From the Palestinians or from Israel, which must already have 12 to 15 atomic bombs, which has the most complete military arsenal and the one most generously supplied by the United States and whose leaders act in a truly fascist way. I leave to the world's conscience the task of answering this question.

[Question] The Palestinian cause has a great deal of international support, in particular from the socialist countries, from most of the Third World countries, from the progressive elements of the Western countries. What is your attitude with respect to somewhat different movements but ones located in Israel itself, such as "Peace Now," which are calling for negotiations?

[Answer] It is true that the Palestinian people enjoy broad support at the international level. In the nonaligned, socialist, Islamic African countries, among the democratic forces throughout the world. And we of course follow very closely what is going on in Israel. Our National Council adopted a resolution stipulating that the PLO had to engage in a dialogue with the democratic Jewish forces both inside and outside of Israel. Where Israel is concerned these contacts have already been made on repeated occasions with the Rakah (the Israeli Communist Party), with other organizations, with progressive personalities. They have been worthwhile.

"Peace Now" is a symptom that explains the failure of the Begin and Camp David policy. It is in this sense that it is significant. But one must neither exaggerate nor overestimate the impact such a movement can have on the government and the military. It has no influence on their power to make decisions which remains totally bound to world imperialism and to the international monopolies.

[Question] And the United States?

[Answer] There we discern some positive indications. In particular within the black community, among some Christian institutions and among the friendly personalities who are beginning to understand the meaning of our struggle.

We have to go into these completely new trends more thoroughly. There is the example of Vietnam. When a cause is just, in the long run it has great strength. And then this progress fits into a more general tendency. I have perceived this during my visits to European countries, countries from which we were hitherto banned, that were closed, solely penetrable by the lying allegations of our enemies. It is very encouraging. But let us not forget that we still have a long way to go.

[Question] What is the status of your projected visit to France? And what is its significance for you?

[Answer] My visit to France would help the Palestinian cause take a leap forward. Because of France's importance, its weight in Europe in general and in the European community in particular.

I received an invitation from my friend Georges Marchais and I hope that circumstances will allow me to go there. I also hope to receive an invitation from the French Government. And I hope for this especially since we have many, many friends among the various major sectors of the French people. Our communist friends, our Gaullist friends, socialist friends.... At the same time I am not unaware that great pressure is being applied on the French Government not to issue that invitation to me.

What I would like is for France to be in a position to follow the policy pursued by de Gaulle with respect to the Palestinian question in his relations with the Arab nation without being vulnerable to Israeli-American pressures. I would like France to remember its democratic tradition since the French Revolution, its cultural tradition. And its moral responsibility which is to see to it that right and justice prevail.

[Question] Now that the 1980's are beginning, what would you like to tell the French people and more especially the French workers?

[Answer] I address myself to the French people as a whole and especially to their laboring forces so that they will ever increasingly stand at our side in defending our just cause. May they be faithful to their democratic traditions and help us win out against the racist campaign of annihilation of those who change us into the Red Indians of the Mid-East, like them humiliated, hunted down, threatened with destruction. All of the world's men and women of integrity, all of its progressives, democrats, care about our legitimate struggle for liberation. And we know that our Palestinian people who too often are still living under appalling conditions can count on their innumerable French friends.

ARAB ATTITUDE TOWARD AFGHANISTAN CRISIS

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 28 Jan 80 pp 1. 2

[Editorial: "Jerusalem and the Frontiers of Afghanistan"]

[Text]

The frontier of Afghanistan runs today through Jerusalem. A geographical absurdity, of course, but a political reality for all that. In their different ways, the message that Saudi Arabian princes, Egypt's Anwar Sadat, Jordan's King Hussein, the PLO and the shadowy assassins of Soviet advisers in Syria are transmitting to the West is the same: that the unfinished business of an Arab-Israeli peace settlement not only threatens world peace and the security of oil supplies, but also that ending the conflict over Palestine is one of the principal keys to successful resolution of the crisis resulting from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The applause which greeted President Carter's State of the Union declaration that the US regarded any attempt by an outside power to gain control of the Gulf "as an assault on the vital interests of the United States" is unlikely to be echoed in the Arab world, even by those Arabs who agree with Mr Carter's diagnosis.

One reason is that, almost in the same breath, Mr Carter spoke of how the US has "increased and strengthened our naval presence in the Indian Ocean, and we are now making arrangements for key naval and air facilities to be used by our forces in the region of northeast Africa and the Persian Gulf," a reference to the Soviet-built base at Berbera in Somalia and possible facilities in Bahrain. This newsletter revealed in its January 14 issue that the US had acquired rights to use Berbera and reports reaching Beirut last week said an American flotilla had already begun using the base. Such moves are bound to arouse Arab suspicions for as long as the unresolved issue of Palestine looms above the region like a ghost at the feast.

The Americans can argue that the danger to the Gulf is the greater — and it certainly is — but the presence of this new threat does nothing to remove the existence of the peril that Arabs perceive coming from Israel. Moreover, past American support for Israel and current lack of progress on Palestinian rights do nothing to allay Arab anxieties about the motives behind an American military presence in the Middle East.

Is this message the product of Arab tunnel vision — an inability to see beyond the bounds of their own private fears? This newsletter does not think so. True, it does contain elements of Arab egocentricity: for the PLO, holding centre stage is a revolutionary imperative and the assassins in Syria who have killed at least two Soviet advisers in recent weeks probably do not devote much thought to geopolitics. But there are equally much broader aspects to the message which extend beyond the limits of Arab interests and some reach right to the heart of the present crisis between East and West.

There are several reasons for believing this. First, the Arab world was a dangerous region long before Afghanistan, the Islamic Revolution in Iran or the Camp David agreements focused world attention on the Middle East, and Palestine was the cause of this danger. Camp David intensified the peril by splitting the Arabs into three constituencies — Egypt; the moderates willing to accept a peace which provided at least for the return of occupied Arab territory (with particular emphasis on Jerusalem) and the creation of a Palestinian state; and the diehard irreconcilables. Since then, the situation has worsened. Egypt is now close to a separate peace with Israel that would largely ignore the second of the Camp David accords covering the Palestinians; Iran is a daily reminder of the social, religious and economic divisions and their potential for disorder inside each Arab state; Afghanistan not only brings an aggressive super-power closer to the Middle East's oilfields but is also a vivid demonstration of the Soviet Union's willingness to use naked force to attain its ends and to crush believers in Islam.

The second reason is that Arab reaction to the events mentioned above has been contradictory, at least in its appearance to outsiders. Since the fall of the Shah, Arabs have reproached the US for its weakness and its failure to protect them. At the same time, when the US sought belatedly some means of using its military power to make its presence felt in the Gulf, its overtures have been spurned by the Arabs. The Americans have thus found themselves being asked to do the impossible: to bring into action their military lever on behalf of their Arab friends while these same friends refuse to allow the creation of a necessary fulcrum.

There is, of course, a very genuine reluctance by the Arabs to be sucked into the maelstrom of super-power politics. They do not possess the military muscle required for this game and they know it. Equally, they know their oil is a prize of incalculable value in the

rivalry between East and West; denial of Middle Eastern oil to the West would quickly bring Western Europe and Japan to their knees and almost certainly tip the global

balance of power irrevocably in favour of the Soviet Union. The Arabs, therefore, are not unappreciative of the fact that their oil is a potential *casus belli* between the super-powers--and that owning oil carries concomitant dangers.

A desire to stand outside the East-West struggle does not, however, explain in full the apparent perversity of current Arab attitudes. To understand the logic behind Arab positions--and they are logical despite the above-mentioned contradictions--one must return to the earlier cause of conflict in the Middle East, namely Palestine.

Rejection of Camp David created an incongruous partnership between Arab moderates and diehards which Israeli intransigence has helped to strengthen. It is an incongruous partnership because it lumps together South Yemen, an outright ally of the USSR, Libya, a state ruled by a visionary Islamic leader whose hunger for armaments is humoured by Moscow, Syria, an ally of the Soviet Union because it sees no alternative source of weapons to defend its territory against a pre-emptive strike by Israel, Gulf states for whom Communism is anathema and Iraq, nominally a friend of the Soviet Union but in fact deeply hostile to Soviet strategic aims.

Only credible Arab response

The partnership hangs together because it is the only Arab response to Israel with any credibility once Egypt is removed from the regional power balance. But it is at the same time a partnership doomed to inaction, which can agree only on a negative riposte to Camp David by seeking to isolate Egypt from the rest of the Arab world. It is also an unreliable partnership, as the diehards demonstrated by their refusal to attend a meeting of Islamic Foreign Ministers at Islamabad on January 26 on Afghanistan because their presence would affect their relationship with Moscow.

King Hussein has tried valiantly to move the rejectionists away from negative policies which do not work towards a more positive position from which combined Arab power could be used to obtain meaningful terms from Israel. In this, King Hussein has had some help from the PLO's Yasser Arafat, but he is buffeted between mutually antagonistic Arab states and must fight constantly to prevent any one of them from dominating the PLO. Sad to say, their efforts have met with failure. And the closer that Egypt and Israel come to a separate peace which does not resolve the problem of Palestinian rights, the harder their task will be.

The Arab leaders who are fearful of the security of the Gulf are the same Arabs who fear the threat of Israel and it would be unrealistic to expect them to be otherwise. They are divided in their counsels, unable to agree on what they do want, agreeing only on what they do not want and living in mortal dread that any action they might take would be seen by their own people as a sell-out. For Israel represents not only an external threat to the Arabs by virtue of its huge arsenal of weapons, but also a perennial potential source of internal disorder in Arab states.

It is time, therefore, for the Americans to recognise that the Camp David agreements contained a fundamental flaw and that their defectiveness is compounded by the fact that Israel under Menahem Begin never had any intention of implementing the second agreement. President Sadat's call last week for a second Camp David summit was an implicit admission that he has come to the end of the road with the Israelis - although it is highly questionable whether a trilateral meeting of this sort can accomplish much that is meaningful.

A much more comprehensive approach to the Palestinian problem is now needed, with the US using its power to bully the Israelis to bring them into line. It is in the vital interest of the US to do so because security of the Gulf is as much a question of life and death for Americans as it is for the Arabs; Israel's contribution to this security is a minus factor for as long as its conflict with the Arabs persists. The frontier of Afghanistan must be pushed back to its proper geographical location.

CSO: 4820

UAE, SUDAN TO SHARE IN BANKING, DEVELOPMENT VENTURES

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 1 Feb 80 p 3

[Article by Michael Fernandez]

[Text]

Abu Dhabi, Jan. 31 (EN): Plans for establishing a joint venture bank in the Sudan will be discussed with officials of the State Bank of India by a delegation from the Emirates and Sudan Investment Company headed by its chairman Mohamed Khalifa Al Yousef, the company's chairman.

The delegation will also consist of Juwan Salem, under-Secretary in the Abu Dhabi Finance Department, Abdulla bin Ali, member of the board of the company and the UAE Ambassador in Sudan and Dr. Abdel Hafeez El Rufaie, the Managing Director of the Company. It will leave for Delhi via Bombay on Sunday.

Announcing this here today, Dr. Rufaie, who is here for discussions with the Board chairman about the details of this joint venture, told Emirates News that once agreement has been reached with the State Bank of India the bank could start operating immediately.

The investment company was set up in Khartoum as a joint venture between the UAE and the Sudan three years ago following discussions between Sudanese president Jaafar Numeiri and His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

The capital of the company, which is fully paid up, is 20 million dollars, 50 per cent of which is paid by each government. Dr. Rufaie said the Board has recommended an increase

in the capital up to 50 million dollars which is again to be shared by the UAE and Sudan governments.

"We have done a good job in the little time since the company was established," Dr. Rufaie said. "We have executed the building of 34 warehouses each with a capacity of 28,000 cubic metres in Port Sudan.

Dr. Rufaie said this investment is technically viable, economically sound and financially extremely remunerative.

The company will be building a hotel in Port Sudan of 450 rooms and an international deluxe 5-star hotel in Khartoum with 500 rooms.

The company has a poultry project in the Khartoum province and another in the Gezira province which will be giving the Sudan 10 million eggs and one million broilers each in Khartoum and Gezira.

The company has also in the same Gezira region a project for fattening sheep and cattle as well as 50,000 acres of land fully owned by the company.

Dr. Rufaie said the company plans to have a commercial centre in the Khartoum province to cater for banks, big companies, financial institutions as well as for his own company. "This is a good project and it is a very economically viable project as well as a sound one," Dr. Rufaie said, adding that the company also plans to have a road transportation project shared

jointly by the Government of Sudan and the Emirates and Sudan Investment Company with a capital of 17-1/2 million dollars.

The investment company has also formed subsidiary companies in most of the Sudan provinces, such as the Emirates and Red Sea Investment Company, Emirates and Khartoum Investment Company, Emirates and Gezira Investment Company, Emirates and White Nile Investment Company and Emirates and Northern Province Investment Company.

Dr. Rufaie said, besides these subsidiaries, the company has a joint venture with the Sudan Airways for cargo handling. The company is known as the Emirates and Sudan for Cargo and Air Services.

The company will also build two warehouses each with 28,000 cubic metres capacity at the Khartoum

International Airport for handling cargo. In addition, two warehouses are to be built in the Khartoum province - one in Gezira and the other in the White Nile area. He claimed that this is a "very good commercial investment."

Dr. Rufaie said the company is doing "generally very fine" and the environment for investment in the Sudan is very suitable. "The Government of Sudan is giving tremendous help to this company and the Government of the UAE is blessing it," Dr. Rufaie said.

"The establishment of this company is meant to cement the relations between the two countries and give momentum to the development process in the Sudan with the target of benefiting both the Sudanese and UAE nationals," Dr. Rufaie said.

CSO: 4820

PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR ARAB DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 28 Jan 80 pp 9, 10

[Text]

The following is the second part of a list of projects submitted to the main Arab development assistance funds for their consideration; it contains details of projects for which some African countries are seeking financial help.

The proposals were submitted during a coordination meeting of the funds in Abu Dhabi late last year and *An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO*, is reproducing details from a document obtained from sources close to that conference. Projects for which Arab countries are seeking financing were listed in our January 21 issue and we intend to publish details of proposals from other African as well as from Asian countries on February 5.

Funds present at the meeting and referred to by their initials in column two are: the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development (ADFAED), Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFSED) and the OPEC Special Fund.

Readers should not that the Kuwaiti Dinar is worth \$3.682 at current rates of exchange and the Saudi Rial is worth \$0.297.

Country and Project	Fund(s)	Total cost (million)	Status
AFRICAN COUNTRIES			
Angola			
Railway project	AFESD		AFESD contribution \$ 10 million. Feasibility study submitted to the funds concerned. OPEC Special Fund will contribute. KFAED was not asked to contribute, decision pending request. ADFAED requested copy of second phase study.
Botswana			
Jabron airport	AFESD, KFAED, SFD		AFESD will assess project this month. KFAED considering contribution of KD 2 million; will evaluate project next March. SFD contributed SR 36.5 million. ADFAED requested project assessment.
Burundi			
Bujumbura drainage system			AFESD and BADEA contributing \$ 4 million. Arab funds invited to fill \$ 5 million finance gap. OPEC Special Fund requested additional information.
Gambia			
Yundum International Airport	AFESD, SFD, ADFAED, OPEC Special Fund		AFESD contributed \$ 5.2 million. SFD supplied with copy of cost estimates and financing plan. ADB requested additional information.
River docks project	KFAED		KFAED assessing project. Preliminary studies financed by the fund.
Road project			Studies of the project financed by KFAED and will be submitted to other institutions for further study.
Cape Verde Islands			
Sea wealth development			AFESD agreed to contribute to the project with a \$ 2.4 million share. SFD and ADFAED considering project.

Comorro islands			
Matsamudu port	ADFAED, KFAED	\$ 37	IDB, AFESD and OPEC Special Fund requested copies of the studies
Telecommunications	AFESD		AFESD's contribution \$ 1.57 million. Other funds asked to contribute.
Road construction project			SFD financing construction of three roads. \$ 3-4 million finance gap presented to the funds for contribution. AFESD and ADFAED requested additional information.
Water drainage and distribution and rural development			SFD will assess both projects in the first half of this year. Finance gaps exist in both projects. KFAED considering technical assistance consisting of financing field trip of delegation.
Cameroun			
Credit facility to Commercial Development Bank			AFESD considering contribution to the bank to finance its credit operations to small and medium industries. IDB and AFESD considering similar measures. OPEC Special Fund contributed \$ 4.5 million.
Railway project	SFD	\$ 200	KFAED may contribute. IDB interested in project.
Corn cultivation			ADFAED said project assessment results were unfavourable. Funds will be transferred to railway project. SFD requested a copy of the study.
Congo			
Railway project			KFAED and SFD announced that contributions are pending results of the study of the project and the World Bank contribution.
Lesotho			
International Airport	SFD		SFD urged other funds to take part in the financing. SFD has BADEA's study of the project. ADFAED willing to contribute.

CSO: 4820

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

COMMUNIQUE ON POLISARIO-DFFLP TALKS--Beirut, 18/02/80 (APS)--Mr Obeid Cheikh, POLISARIO Front Politburo member, who stays, actually in Lebanon, was received, Saturday, in Britu by Mr Nayif Hawatimah, Palestine Liberation Democratic Front secretary general. In a communique issued after the talks, the Palestine Liberation Democratic Front indicated that the Saharan official handed over to Mr Hawatimah an official invitation from Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the POLISARIO Front, to make a visit to Western Sahara. The communique also recised that the Palestinian-Saharan talks centred on the evolution of the situation in Western Sahara and Middle East. [Text] [LD181340 Algiers APS in English 1211 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD]

CSO: 4420

NATION'S STRANGULATION BY SOVIET INVADERS DETAILED

Paris LE FIGARO MAGAZINE in French 12 Jan 80 pp 39-46

[Article by Robert Lacontre: "Soviet Aggression in Afghanistan"]

[Text] The Soviet armored divisions have invaded Afghanistan with a precise objective: to transform a people's republic into a docile satellite. Even at the price of the extermination of a people. An act of escalation which makes one fear the worst.

Band-i Amir is the eighth wonder of the world which one forgets to compare with others. Imagine a mountainous high plateau, flat and arid, without a tuft of grass to hide behind, surrounded by vertically descending mountains, everything covered at the moment with a fine film of frozen snow. Suddenly, your horses pull up sharply before an enormous gulf. At the bottom of it a sapphire-colored lake, half frozen over, empties into another through a waterfall, then into another, and into another still, steadily descending. The most beautiful setting of ice and the greatest silence on earth.

Without warning an inhuman throbbing sound, a MiG passes over close to the ground, like a sword cut. "The bastards!" shout the horsemen of Joseph Kessel, covered with variegated silks and furs, who move as nomads in these steppes at the borders of heaven. "The bastards!" The Afghans do not say, "the infidels." The word is much stronger. It signifies all the scorn and the hatred of an immensely religious people. Because here, it is the Afghan who appears as the civilized man. The Russian--he is the atheistic barbarian, the anti-Mohammed, the anti-Christ.

The Hindu Kush stretches out from the northeast to the southwest, hanging over from its 5000 meters of altitude the most fertile valleys, the bestlooking fruit, the most colorful clothing, the loudest markets, and obstructs to the north and the south deserts of golden sand. The terrain does not lend itself well to guerrilla war. The skirmishes take place in little groups, almost individually, often as night falls. For every attack the occupying power completely levels the nearest village, and shoots all the inhabitants, men, women, children, old people, livestock. Like the Nazis in the Ukraine.

Three Objectives

Afghanistan is not Vietnam. The invader has only to surround the mountains and divide off the towns and hamlets. Then he can destroy everything. It is what he is doing. The present offensive has three objectives:

- To secure his boundaries with a buffer state, checkmating definitively those who are in revolt and who threaten to contaminate the same ethnic groups which are found over the border, in Soviet Turkestan.
- To drive the Islamic guerrillas back to the frontiers of the country, that is, to Pakistan and Iran, and to seal the frontiers hermetically.
- To concentrate his forces to prevent any U.S. intervention in the area.¹

But we forget too often that the Soviet occupation is not a matter of today. The Russians have been there a long time--since the English left. The installation of communist power 2 years ago has only facilitated their task.

There also are the shortcomings of the United States, the beautiful words of the Trilateral Conference, and the indifference of the Europeans, which have left the Kremlin with its hands free. There have been, for a long time, 7000 "military advisers" and other "officials." There were 300 at the Ministry of Industry and Mines, 110 at the Ministry of Planning, 107 at the Ministry of Education, the ministry of "brain washing," as they call it here. Thus, they have been able to loot the mines of lapis lazuli and take the caracul hides (from astrakhan sheep), the cotton, the dried fruit, while waiting to find coal, petroleum, and uranium. Because the 683,000 sq km of Afghanistan are practically virgin land and only 10 percent of the land is cultivated. As far as natural gas is concerned, it is purchased from Moscow at three or four times the cost on the international market and even more expensively than in Iran. Further, the Soviets "pump it absolutely without anyone to check what they are doing, for the "counting valve" is located in the USSR. For a small country the debt already has reached more than \$1 billion. The Kremlin keeps all the records and sells the Afghans all its old war material.

Today the invasion is massive. More than seven divisions, that is, nearly 100,000 men.² At present the number of dead grows from day to day. They amount to about 5000 Afghans and 400 Russians. But since the establishment of the communist regime in 1978 there have been at least 300,000 dead. There are, moreover, 25,000 political prisoners. At each change of leader--there have been three changes in two years--some prisoners have been freed and others have been jailed. The prisons are constantly full. The Afghan refugees in Pakistan total half a million, while there are 150,000 refugees in Iran. In the mind of the Moscow strategists this division of the population will facilitate, at the following stage, the destabilization of the neighboring countries.

The Massacres

Last April in Herat, at the gates of Iran, the people, deeply angered by the arrogant behavior of the invaders from the North, suddenly massacred about 100 Russians. The Red army immediately intervened in force. Bombing aircraft, coming from the USSR, drenched the residential areas with napalm. Artillery fired at point blank range on the mosques. Thirteen thousand seven hundred persons were killed. To provide an example 180 men were buried alive and drenched with gasoline. The Soviet soldiers urinated in the mouths of the religious leaders [mullahs]. Violent fighting has broken out in the last few days in the martyred city of Herat. On the average, almost every 24 hours, one isolated Russian is assassinated. Here, a water porter suddenly jumps on a big, blonde soldier and cuts his throat, with a cry of "Allah is great." There, a group of farmers prepare an ambush, capture a few private soldiers, and cut off their noses, their ears, and their sexual parts before skinning them alive. Ivan today is going through the apprenticeship of colonialism.

All the tribes are now at war. From the Oxus River of ancient times to the Indus River the Afghans have fought against Cyrus, Darius, Alexander the Great, the Arabs, Genghis Khan, Tamerlane, the Great Moghuls, the Iranians, and the English. Today they are fighting against the Russians. On the peaks of the Pamir range of mountains (7000 meters high), which are on the border of China, the soldiers of "Marco Polo," a mountain chief, attack Soviet patrols with old rifles and bows and arrows. In Nouristan and Paktiar, practically the only two regions where the guerrillas can find shelter, because there are forests there, the soldiers of the local Soviet commander, an Uzbek named Moussa Ivanov (advised by five Russian generals) have trouble moving and are suffering heavy losses. Farther to the west, towards the Khyber Pass, dear to Kipling, which leads to Peshawar, where the resistance is being organized, 300 tanks and armored vehicles maneuver with difficulty, because the guerrillas use bazookas and mortars, often seized from the enemy.

Day after day the soldiers of the regular Afghan army--120,000 men--desert and join the "fighters of the faith," with their arms and equipment. The 7th Division from Richkachor, the 8th Division from Kargah, the 4th Armored Division from Pulcharkir, surrounded by the Soviets in the vicinity of Kabul, are still resisting. The remnants of the Afghan army still loyal to the communist government, about 10,000 men in all, have been disarmed by the Russians. Everywhere, they burn the red flag which has been imposed on them and they replace it with the old black, red, and green flag with the golden eagle or even with the green flag of Islam.

The Pashtuns, 45 percent of the population³--they number 8 million in Afghanistan, 7 million in Pakistan--the Tadjiks, 30 percent of whom are Iranians; the Uzbeks; the Turkmens, a Turkish race; the Kirghizs, a Mongolian people speaking Turkish; and the Hazaras, true descendants of the hordes of Attila, who often fight among themselves where there is no external

danger--all are united against the invader. A holy war has been proclaimed from one end of the country to the other. It is the chiefs of the tribes who lead the resistance. Here, in a country following the Sunni tradition of Islam, there is no charismatic religious leader. Three months ago an "Islamic Council to Save Afghanistan" was created, including all political tendencies. Among the leaders are the religious leader Sayed Ahrmad Guilani, president of the "Islamic Revolution"; Dr Sibquatullah Mojadidi, professor of theology at Kabul, Copenhagen, and at Al Azhar University in Cairo who leads the "Liberation Front"; and six generals. King Zaher Shah, age 64, in exile since 1973 in Rome, who no longer has any political ambition, broke silence to condemn Soviet intervention and to call on all the leaders of the resistance to unite. A patriot and a philosopher, he is still very much respected in the country. During the 40 years of his reign he never condemned a single person to death. Already Islamic courts are trying "collaborators." They are hanged or have their throats cut.

Not Slaves

Part of the 5000 communists or pseudo-communists of the Khalq (People's) Party of Taraki and Amin, both of whom were assassinated, have joined the guerrillas. The hundred or so supporters of the other Communist Party, the Parcham (The Flag), which is more city-oriented, under the present leader Babrak Karmal, who was exiled as ambassador to Prague and who came back in the wagons of the Russians, seem to hesitate. Communists, yes, but not slaves.

Finally, the red government of the moment does not represent more than about 15 persons, one-third of whom served under Taraki. This little group was driven from power by Amin and then released from prison by Babrak Karmal. They include Watandjar, influential member of the small central committee; Mazdurior, minister of transport; Glubzoui, minister of the interior; and Raifi, minister of war. As for the minister of foreign affairs, he was a secretary in the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad. Everyone says in Kabul that Shah Mohammed Dost is above all a society dancer and an inveterate alcoholic, which is hardly pleasing to 99.9 percent of the population, all of them Muslim.

Another scandal: Karmal "governs" with his mistress, Anhita Ratebzad, minister of social affairs under Taraki, today minister of education, the wife of a well-known and very respected surgeon of Kabul, Dr Kramudine. Karmal and his mistress receive their orders directly from the new Soviet ambassador, a Tartar, Sikhriat Abraham Tabiev, who replaced Alexander Pouzanov in November, 1979. It was the latter who demanded from Brezhnev massive reinforcements to decapitate the rebellion. Facing each other, then, are 16 Afghans and 100,000 Russians against 17 million Afghans.

Let us go back a little. July 1973. King Zaher Shah (who studied at the lycee Janson-de-Sailly) was overthrown by his cousin and brother-in-law, General Daoud (who attended the lycee Michelet), who established a republic. While he attempted to draw closer to the West to resist pressure from the

Russians, the Kremlin prepared a plot to overthrow him. In April, 1978, "Moscow's man," Nour Mohammed Taraki, killed Daoud, massacred 12,000 people, and transformed the country into a people's republic, a proletarian dictatorship without a proletariat. But his prime minister, Amin, too ambitious and too cruel, disturbs the Russians. A new plot. Summoned to the palace by Taraki with Pouzanov present, Amin is distrustful, but he goes. A KGB agent takes out his revolver and fires at him. Major Taron, chief of the secret police, responsible for several murders, including that of the Ambassador of the United States in March [1978], steps in the way. He is killed. Amin escapes and comes back several hours later with some supporters. He liquidates Taraki and all his entourage, 60 persons in all. He takes power. Pouzanov is recalled to Moscow for his clumsiness. December, 1979, exactly ten days before the Soviet intervention, a burst of firing breaks out in the palace. Amin is wounded in the leg. He flees to another palace in the suburbs, at Darulman, where the Russians seize him. They turn him over to Karmal after his arrival with the first Antonov [transports], while the Russians declare that the Afghan government--what government?--appealed to them by virtue of the treaty of assistance, alleging foreign aggression. It is like Prague but more cynical. Karmal has Amin killed. A new bloodbath. The Russian troops cross the Amou Daria [River] and rush towards Kabul by the highway which Moscow took the trouble to construct 15 years earlier. From the capital they spread out towards the south, the southwest, and the southeast, by roads which were constructed and paved at the cost of the American taxpayer.

At Mazar-i Charif, a rich oasis very near the frontier of the USSR, in Turkmen country, military convoys follow each other without interruption, as at the time of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. The splendid mausoleum of turquoise ceramic where, legend states, the son-in-law of the prophet Ali is buried begins to crack under the rumbling of the tanks and the field artillery. The thousands of white pigeons which lived in the sacred sanctuary have gone. Farther south, at Pul-i Khumri, the Soviet divisions get under way, passing the most fabulous market of the whole Near East. At the market are mountains of spices of all colors, silks, carpets said to come from Bokhara, old weapons, jewels set in sterling silver, porcelain from China and giant samovars in yellow copper which make one recall that the tsars were also interested in Afghanistan. There also the Turkmen, the Uzbek, the Kirghiz, the Tadjik tribes, all of them Sunni Muslims (only the Mongolian Hazara tribe is Shi'ite Muslim), the same as those who live totally isolated in Soviet central Asia under the Russian boot (50 million Muslims in the USSR), watch the invader pass with rage. The columns of steel and their machineguns then attack the Salang Pass at an altitude of 3000 meters. It is the only direct way to Kabul, "a drop of water on a rose," says the poets. The congestion is at its worst at the entry to the tunnel, which is 2800 meters long. It is necessary to push aside ridges of ice. There are machinegun nests everywhere, on all the hills. The local residents are meticulously searched before they pass by. In effect it would be enough to blow up the tunnel to hold back the red tide considerably.

Then the armored vehicles and the armored cars with cannons slowly descend the numberless switchbacks towards Kabul, 1200 meters lower in altitude. The thermometer shows 25 degrees below zero [Celsius]. An endless chain of bombers loaded with napalm and troop-carrying aircraft cover the international airport of Khojaravsh and the new air base of Bagram.

This is red Kabul, which the communist leaders have had effectively painted in red: shutters, doors, windows, billboards, barricades. It is frankly horrible. The little shops are tottering, the palaces are full of cracks, the walls are pockmarked by bullets. Only the Intercontinental Hotel, requisitioned for senior Russian officers, and the great blue mosque of Shar-i Nau, which is visited more and more, have kept their good appearance. The Shi'ite section of Jadeh Mawand is still as dirty as ever. The "Micro-Rayon," a vast complex of badly constructed concrete, where the Soviet colony has taken refuge, resembles the suburbs of Tashkent.

The Slow Caravans

There is the same agitation on the road from the center of the country which leads to Iran. In the valley of Bamiyan, where Asia and Greece met 23 centuries ago. Giant Buddhas, carved from the mountains, dominate the military convoys from their 53 meters in height. The statues no longer have faces. The Muslims destroyed them in the Ninth Century, but the folds of their gowns still have the lines of Athenian princesses. The Muscovite, Byelorussian, and Ukrainian soldiers do not come back. Shaded eyes, blue eyes of pur Aryans, black Persian eyes look with amazement at the helmeted representatives of the civilization which is going to be imposed on them. Five times a day, despite the crowd, the men bow towards Mecca. The Turkmen women, in multi-colored clothing, covered with brocades, a silver flower in one of their nostrils, prepare corn pancakes over wood fires, while the Afghan women hide themselves more and more in their large garment, the chadri, to protest the Marxist directives, though here, as in South Yemen, one no longer talks to Karl Marx but only of Lenin.

In the chaikhanas, the suburbs, like in Samarkhand and Bokhara, people take green tea to refresh themselves and black tea to warm themselves. Both are served boiling hot, Chinese style, that is, with individual teapots. The traveler stretches out or crouches on old carpets which Russian soldiers vainly seek to exchange for their bad watches, when they do not take them by force. On the outskirts the black tents made of camel's hair strangely resemble bats. The caravans pass as they have always passed, slow and majestic, loaded with sacks of salt and tinware, often with hidden weapons.

The Russian tanks now arrive at the frontier of Baluchistan, which lies astride Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. It is the last stretch of land, 200 km across, before reaching the Indian Ocean, the dream of Peter the Great. In the three countries the Baluchi communist parties are very active. Everything is in place for an explosion. The red army is henceforth very near to impose a Soviet regime. With Ethiopia, South Yemen, Aden, the Tudeh Party in Abadan, the trap is in place.

There are no more fights of part idges, quails, or dogs. The spirited Arab stallions and the little Mongol geldings no longer race against each other. There is no more hunting with falcons or greyhounds. The Afghans no longer have the time to live. They are at war. The great landowners--at least those who remain--the shepherds, the farmers, the shopkeepers, the merchants, the soldiers are ready to sacrifice their lives for their liberty. But communist Russia is pitiless. The imbalance of forces is too great. Farther to the north, on the icy plateau, there are huts of skin, some chickens, a goat to nourish an always numerous family. They drink mare's milk, called koumis, which has a vinegar flavor. They warm themselves by burning camel and yak dung. A poor people, but humble, hospitable and proud, indomitable and undominated for thousands of years, cruel, but just, which believes only in its god, Allah.

FOOTNOTES

¹Twenty-three warships, two of them the carriers MIDWAY and KITTYHAWK, with a firepower as great as that of the whole American fleet during the last World War, are on patrol nearby, at the entry of the straits of Hormuz.

²The Soviet divisions are stronger than ours: they have 14,000 men.

³Many languages are spoken in Afghanistan. The two official languages are: Afghani and Dari, that is to say, Persian.

5170

CSO: 4900

BAHRAIN

BRIEFS

NATIONAL BANK PROFITS--National Bank of Bahrain increased its profits for the ninth consecutive year from BD 2.92 million in 1978 to BD 3.68 million (\$9.7 million) last year, a rise of 25.9 percent. Last month the National Bank announced a one-for-one scrip share issue and a change in the method of calculating the dividend; its directors have recommended a dividend for 1979 of 15 percent of the profits instead of a percentage of the face value of the shares. This will result in a payout of BD 552,000, an increase of 38 percent on the BD 400,000 paid out last year. [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORTS & MEMO in English 21 Jan 80 p 12]

CSO: 4820

TEHRAN SEEN TRYING TO SPLIT SUNNIS, SHI'ITES

Paris LE POINT in French 21 Jan 80 p 39

[Article by Alain Louyot]

[Text] It is not by mere chance that shortly after the bloody repression of Tabriz, capital of Azerbaijan, the Ayatollah Khomeyni decided last week to expel American journalists from Iran.

More than a retaliatory measure against the United States which is threatening Iran with economic sanctions; more than an attempt aimed at restricting the disastrous impact of the hostage affair on worldwide public opinion, this is basically a common domestic measure. Just as that of a few days earlier which forbade a group of Western press representatives entry into the Azerbaijan Province.

By thus depriving the Iranians of any information--not 'controlled' by the Ministry of National Orientation--on the serious disturbances in this region now become one of the main strongholds of opposition to imam power, the Islam republic's leaders are trying desperately to suppress a scandal. A scandal capable alone of stirring up the whole country: that Moslem Shi'ite blood now taints the hands of the revolution's supreme leader, the Aystollah Khomeyni. "Freedom is like a tree. It flourishes only when watered with our blood," sobbingly chanted the families of the victims felled by the bullets of the shah's soldiers, in the vast Behecht Zahra cemetery, near Tehran. That was only a little more than a year ago. Now, today, the Tabriz inhabitants again recall this metaphor born in the revolution's most tragic hour. But this time, it is the imam himself, accused of being "worse than Hitler," against whom the people of Tabriz clamor for vengeance. For, last Saturday at dawn, he had 11 of his brother Shi'ites shot by his militiamen, on the pretext that they belonged to the very rebellious Republican Party of the Moslem People (PRPM), established under the patronage of his rival, Shari'atmadari. Despite his muzzling of the press, it is doubtful whether Khomeyni will succeed in every wiping out among the Iranian the memory of these new 'martyrs.' For instance, the Tehran radio, although under the imman's control, had to admit to its listeners that these executions had 'deeply shocked' the Tabriz people. In fact, the Islamic militia did not deceive the

Azerbaijani people when they claimed to have discovered thousand of pictures of the imperial family on the walls of the PRPM headquarters, which they had taken by assault. Also, they know only too well by no means 'imperialist agents.' But that they were very simply Azerbaijani, ardent Shi'ite Moslems who had, however, rejected the new dictatorship set up by Khomeyni.

Up to now, when the Kurds, the Baluchstani or the Turkomans revolted in the Iranian provinces, the Islamic Republic authorities had no trouble attributing it to the age-old antagonism of the Sunnite and Shi'ite Moslems or the autonomist, or even separatist, inclinations of these minorities. In the Azerbaijani affair, this explanation is no longer true. For not only does the great majority of the 9 million inhabitants of this province profess the Shi'ite religion, the only one which the new constitutions officially recognized, but also the Azerbaijani has never seriously demanded his independence, even though, as he is Turkish speaking, he is very devoted to his own particular language.

Quite contrary to the 4 million Kurds, the native Iranians in Azerbaijan, who make up almost one third of the Iranian population, are, as a matter of fact, closely incorporated in the country's life. No doubt because Tabriz, their provincial capital, was on several occasions, Persia's capital, until the 16th Century. But especially because their reputation for courage, uprightness and tenacity enabled the Azerbaijani to enter by brute force into every sector of Iran's economic activity. They make up more than half of the bazaar tradespeople, of the workers in the oil fields, of the Caspian Sea fisherman, and even of the Iranian army where they are found in the officers' ranks.

"Look at a map of Iran. Our province, which borders on the Soviet Union, is in the northernmost part of the country. It is, so to speak, its head..." the Azerbaijani like to tell us. Just a few days before the election of the president of the Islamic Republic, scheduled for Friday, it is precisely this "head" which Khomeyni wishes to force to bow down.

8870

CSO: 4900

IMAM'S HEART ATTACK SEEN STRENGTHENING PRESIDENCY

Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Jan 80 p 9

[Article by special correspondent Eric Rouleau: "Imam Khomeyni's Heart Attack Stresses Importance of Presidential Election"]

[Text] Tehran--On this Friday 25 January, day of the presidential election, the Iranians are filled with anxiety. "Is the imam very sick; is he going to recover?" is the question that everybody is asking. His allocution, delivered Thursday early in the afternoon from the hospital where he has been admitted (LE MONDE, 25 January), has in fact increased the anxiety of the people. His sepulchral and quavering voice was that of an exhausted octogenarian. The imam had to excuse himself, in the end, for not being able to speak longer.

One of his physicians, Doctor Arefi, intended to be reassuring when he stated on the radio that the imam had suffered a "minor" cardiac accident, that he suffered from "slight chest pains," that the electrocardiograms made over a period of ten days revealed "slight perturbations." It had then been decided to place him "under observation." Nevertheless, public opinion remains skeptical. If this were true, why bring him from his Qum residence to Tehran Ali Rezai hospital in the middle of the night? Why was he admitted to the emergency ward for "48 hours" according to one of the health bulletins released?

In spite of the repeated assurances given on the radio and on television that "the imam is in good physical conditions," that "he is recovering from his fatigue," hundreds of thousands of people, visibly full of anxiety, immediately rushed to the mosks to pray. The allocution of the leader of the revolution, which rang like a political testament, moved many Iranians to tears, especially in the poorest districts in the south of the capital.

"You Must Show Maturity"

The opening remark by the religious leader was intended, in fact, for the "shantytown people" who, he said, still do not have the benefit of the medical assistance to which every citizen should be entitled. He feels

somewhat ashamed of the "exaggerated care" dispensed to him by his physicians and to which he himself was not used. Speaking like a father dispensing advice, Imam Khomeyni stated that the experience he is going through "would be of no importance," that he "would feel happy," if only the Iranian people were to put an end to their antagonism and behave "like brothers" toward one another. He was thus referring to the violent controversies, defamatory remarks and exchanges of insults which have marked the election campaign.

The imam "humbly begs all Iranians from all classes of society, from all ethnic groups," to go to the polls in large numbers this Friday, to elect their first president of the republic. "You must give aid and support to the new president, whomever he may be, whether you have voted for him or not," he said and then added: "Whether you are a president, a policeman or a cleric as I am, this country is yours and you must show maturity in managing your affairs in unity."

Imam Khomeyni's indisposition has brought to attention the important role which the future president of the republic is bound to have, in spite of the limited powers which the constitution gives him. Should the leader of the revolution pass away, the head of state will be invested with undeniable legitimacy, the more so as it will have been bestowed on him by a majority of the people. He will have to continue the task attempted by the imam: to shape the new republic, to ensure its unity and its cohesion. Should Imam Khomeyni recover--which, according to his physicians, is likely--the role of the president of the republic will also be far from negligible.

Because of his age and his reluctance to take care of "managing tasks," the Qum patriarch will leave the task of administering the country's affairs to the candidate elected by the people, and to the parliament which is going to be elected on a one-man-one-vote basis on 15 February. The president of the republic will also have all latitude in preparing his succession by appointing his supporters to key posts. There is no doubt that much is at stake this Friday at the polls.

9294

CSO:4900

BENIN JURIST INTERVIEWED ON SHAH-HOSTAGE PROBE

Cotonou EHUZU in French 11 Jan 80 pp 3-4

[Interview with Maitre Dossou Robert in Cotonou, by Alassane Yasso of LA VOIX DE LA REVOLUTION: "U.S./Iran Crisis. The Point of View of a Beninese Jurist, Maitre Dossou Robert;" date of interview not given; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] The U.S./Iran crisis is getting worse every day and its end is still not in sight.

Back from a special and private mission in Tehran, comrade Dossou Robert, a Beninese lawyer, member of the International Association of Democratic Jurists, dean of the Faculty of Law, Economy and Political Sciences at the National University of Benin, who has been approached to become a member of the international commission which is to investigate the shah's guilt, has expressed his point of view on the evolution of the U.S./Iran crisis in this interview with our colleague Alassane Yasso of LA VOIX DE LA REVOLUTION.

[Question] Maitre Dossou Robert, you are a member of the Cotonou bar and dean of the Faculty of Law, Economy and Political Sciences of the National University of Benin.

From 28 March until 7 April 1979, you were in Iran; recently, last December, you were again guest of the Iranian authorities. Why these two missions?

[Answer] These two missions were very different. The first one, that of the international investigation commission is the result of an initiative of the International Association of Jurists and its objective was to supervise the referendum, which has taken place, on whether the imperial form of the Iranian state should be changed to a republican form, more especially to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The second mission, which took place last December, was strictly private. I happened to be in Paris on a mission for a Beninese company when I received a telephone call from Mr Sadeq Ghotbzadeh, the Iranian minister of foreign affairs, asking if I would accept to go to Tehran for a legal, or more exactly, a politico-legal consultation. After its object was explained to me, I accepted. I was not invited alone. With me were Maitre Nuri Albala of the Paris bar, and a prominent international personality, Mr Sean Mac Bride, an old Irish nationalist militant who has been UN High Commissioner in Namibia and has received several international awards, such as the Nobel prize for peace, the international Lenin peace prize. It was precisely Mr Mac Bride who headed our consulting group.

[Question] Latest news from Paris inform us that an international commission for the investigation of the ex-shah's guilt might be created in Paris in the next few days. As a member of this commission, could you give us an idea of the procedure you would follow in this matter?

[Answer] I must state that I am not yet a member of this commission. I have been approached but, for the time being, I have only been a member of the consulting group. In Iran, we had long interviews with the country's leaders. What I can tell you is that, in fact, we had to examine the possibility of creating an international commission comprised of international personalities, or an international jury who would judge the crimes committed by the ex-shah's regime, and to put forward the relations which may have existed between these crimes and the American CIA. Discussions are in progress.

[Question] To what extent would this involve the hostages in the American embassy in Tehran?

[Answer] Precisely, we have been brought to make a connection between the idea of such an international commission and the reality of the hostages. This connection became unavoidable in view of the circumstances and of the fact that Iranian authorities did not react quickly enough to that old idea which some of us had suggested even before the deposition of the shah. The idea was to realize something like what has been done in Angola concerning mercenaries, to show the whole world some methods of government which should be strictly prohibited.

Let us come back to the hostages. Some of them know about the methods which have been used under the shah's regime. These hostages, might appear as witnesses before an international commission to confirm or invalidate a number of facts, the implications of which are not yet fully understood.

[Question] Iran has just suggested creating an international tribunal based on the Nuremberg principles. Do you think that this solution will benefit the country?

[Answer] I say that not only this solution will benefit the country, but all the nations in the world as well, and all underdeveloped nations.

The idea of such an international tribunal is one that I had been discreetly raising at the Luanda meeting in 1976. When one speaks of an international tribunal, one thinks mainly of those which have existed in Nuremberg or in Tokyo. What we are considering now draws its inspiration from the Nuremberg tribunal, but it also goes much farther. Let me explain: Right after World War II, European nations were hurt in their flesh and blood by the horrors of nazism and fascism. They felt the need to pronounce a general and unconditional condemnation of nazi and fascist methods. Since then, other horrors are being committed under other skies, in other, more perfect, forms....

I say that European powers were unanimous in setting up comprehensive international legal instruments to pursue the repression of those who had assumed responsibilities in past horrors. Long after the Nuremberg tribunal, the SS are still being hunted. From time to time, one of them gets arrested here and there and stands trial. Parallel to this, the UN has set up a number of instruments, especially the convention on the imprescriptibility of war crimes and crimes against mankind.

With respect to this notion of crimes against mankind, I see some egocentrism in European nations' wanting to confirm [as published] the concept of crime against mankind to facts like those which took place in the name of nazism or fascism.

I think that we should enlarge the notion of crimes against mankind. It should be threefold:

First, war crimes and crimes such as those committed by nazis and fascists.

Second, crimes and horrors such as those committed by the Iranian regime of the shah. By which I mean methods to gain, or remain in power which result in mass crimes, in massacres of populations.

The third type, in my opinion, consists or should consist in the crime of mercenariness.

But why was I just speaking of European egocentrism? I start from a certain experience. I had already attempted to obtain from an international instance a broadening of the concept of crimes against mankind to cover the crime of mercenariness. The advantage of this assimilation and, therefore, of extending [the notion] of crimes against mankind to the two other kinds, is as follows: there exists nowadays an internationally recognized legal system to cover crimes against mankind. If the notion of crime against mankind were extended, kings and heads of states who had overabused their power or their authority would fall under a Nuremberg type jurisdiction. This jurisdiction would be a permanent one. Because the Nuremberg tribunal

was an ad hoc jurisdiction. Then, those facts qualified as crimes against mankind would be covered by the UN convention on the imprescriptibility of war crimes and crimes against mankind, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 26 November 1968.

In such crimes, the right of asylum would be denied under the declaration on territorial asylum dated 14 December 1967.

This is why we, Third World nations, favor an extension of the notion of crimes against mankind.

[Question] /The affair of the American embassy in Tehran has given rise to many legal and even political controversies./

/Maitre Dossou Robert, as a member of the International Association of Democratic Jurists, do you think that the action of the Iranian students is internationally unlawful?/

[Answer] This question cannot be approached in an absolute manner. I shall make comments in two parts.

/There is a strictly legal point of view./ If we consider present international public law, this action constitutes a violation of the rules of international law. There is in fact a notion called ex-territoriality in international public law; it is a legal fiction which makes it possible to consider the concessions, the premises housing a diplomatic representation as being a part of the territory of the state whose legation or embassy is installed on said premises. Under these circumstances, the state on whose territory an embassy is established has an obligation to make sure that diplomatic premises are not violated.

In this respect, what is happening at the American embassy in Tehran is in violation of the rules of international public law.

/Second part of my comments. The political part./ In order to be fully understood, I must first stress that some do not get the full implications of what they learn about the situation in Iran. I am referring to what UN General Secretary, Mr Kurt Waldheim, had to say on his return from Tehran. /He said that "things, over there, are not as simple as some thought."/ And he is right.

If one considers that the ex-shah's regime, through its intelligence service, the SAVAK, has killed or rendered handicapped, crippled, deformed, one third or one fourth of the population, well!, one cannot but understand that this is a deeply hurt people, a people who is asking that justice be done.

There are whole families who have lost their children, families where the only survivor is the father or the mother. All children have been killed, under torture, by the SAVAK. This explains, this is the background for the agitation which we now see in Tehran or elsewhere in Iran.

Apart from these considerations, there are the very conditions under which the SAVAK was created. There, I have to give you some history. I shall remind you that the empire was established in Iran only after a series of coups d'etat, following which an officer named Reza Kan took power and proclaimed himself emperor in 1923. In 1941, in the middle of World War II, Reza Kan had some problems with the British who deposed him and put his son, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, i.e. the presently deposed shah, in his place.

In 1951, the shah was obliged to appoint Dr Mosaddeq, the leader of the National Front, as prime minister. Dr Mosaddeq had begun a nationalist policy characterized, in particular, by the nationalization of Iranian oil. This deeply displeased the imperialist powers, especially the United States. The situation was so tense that in 1953 the shah went into exile and came back only after the coup which overthrew his prime minister, Dr Mosaddeq. This was done with help from the American CIA. This is an established, a proven fact. After that period, a decision was made between the shah and U.S. special services to launch a struggle against communists and especially those belonging to the Tudeh communist party. This is the very reason why, three years after Mosaddeq's overthrow, the SAVAK was created. It was set up, organized, structured with help from CIA advisers.

Soon, the notion of pursuing communists was enlarged to cover anybody questioning the shah's regime or his methods of government. This is the background for the hostages affair, and this is why the Iranian people have included the CIA in their relentless hunt for SAVAK agents.

The Iranian students, on the basis of some information, were curious to try and get a clearer picture by storming the American embassy. They have found many important documents. On the other hand, since they wanted justice against the shah, they have retained a number of hostages whom they think to exchange against the shah.

It is difficult to say, in this respect, that the action of the students is not justified. What I regret, is that this situation has been lasting for so long. Things are dragging and official authorities of the Iranian republic are absolutely powerless in exerting any pressure on these students.

9294

CSO:4900

BRIEFS

NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT--Israel's second international airport, which will be built after Ben-Gurion Airport is working to capacity, is to be located at the Ziqim site near Ashqelon. This is evident from data circulating within the Transport Ministry. From the data it transpires that the long-term plan for Israel's airports locates the second international airport at Ziqim in the south and not at Tel Mhata in the Negev as was originally planned--in the wake of the IDF's redeployment in the Negev. According to the plan, the airport at Ziqim will have a capacity of 20 million passengers. The location has been chosen both because of the vacant land that is required for a large airport and its geographic location with respect to the center of the country, Jerusalem and Beersheba, as well as the fact that the region between Ashqelon and the Gaza Strip will, in time, become a focus for tourists traveling to and from Egypt via the Ne'ot Sinai border point. [Text]
[TA141148 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Feb 80 p 8 TA]

NEW SAMARIA SETTLEMENTS--Qalqilyah, 15 February--An urban settlement of career army officers will be set up beyond the green line, on a hill overlooking the town of Qalqilyah in Samaria. Settlement circles reported that the urban settlement covers about a 1,000 dunams that have already been located and confirmed as state lands. The military authorities have already concluded all the checks on the matter and work will soon begin on the site. The new settlement will be in the Qarne Shomron bloc, where two settlements have already been set up. A fourth settlement will be set up in this block, and this will be a large settlement covering 3,000 dunams. The land for this settlement has also already been located and is adjacent to the new road across Samaria. [Text] [TA150734 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0610 GMT 15 Feb 80 TA]

JANUARY CONSUMER INDEX RISE--The consumer's price index rose by 7.3 percent in January. The Statistics Bureau spokesman reported that the index reached 559.9 points. Our correspondent for economic affairs reported that the rise in the index reflects rises in almost all categories of consumption and contradicts the Finance Ministry's expectations over the last few days. Relying on these expectations the treasury asked the banks to lower interest rates. Our correspondent says that the reason that the index rose beyond the forecast is the rise in apartment prices. The index of these prices is registered in the general index once every 3 months. Therefore, the freeze in apartment prices over recent weeks was not expressed here. Another reason for this

unexpected rise is the especially high rise in the price of fruits and vegetables--nearly 20 percent--although the forecast talked of a seasonal drop in these prices. The Statistics Bureau spokesman said that the prices of clothing and footwear have gone down due to end-of-season sales. The prices of several food commodities, such as frozen and fresh chicken, beef and milk products, have also dropped. The Finance Ministry reacted to this by saying that the decrease in the rate of price rises is the result of the slow-down in the economy and of the psychological change among consumers. The treasury added that the latest economic policy has not been fully expressed yet and the continued policy of restraint will further slow the pace of inflation. Among other things, the Finance Ministry expects a slow-down in the rise of apartment prices which will decrease the inflation. [Text] [TA151342 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Feb 80 TA]

1979 TERRORIST INCIDENTS--In 1979, there were 329 incidents of terrorism, 98 of them in Jerusalem. Police sappers rushed to the scene of 60,000 incidents throughout the country. Most of the incidents involved checking suspicious objects, and the rest involved checking suspicious cars. This has been reported by the police national sappers commander, Assistant Commander Yosi Wartman. In 1979, 400 people were injured in such incidents, 21 of them died. There were over 150 incidents of terrorism that were criminal [as opposed to political] in nature. The police seized huge quantities of explosives, ammunition and weapons, including a mortar and mines. [Text] [TA181602 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Feb 80 TA]

CSO: 4805

MAURITANIA

BRIEFS

JOINT FISHING COMPANY--The Romanian deputy minister of agriculture and the delegation accompanying him left our capital yesterday morning at the end of a 5-day visit to our country. During their stay, Mauritanian and Romanian delegations held fruitful talks that gave birth to a joint fishing company, thus laying the foundations for solid cooperation between the two countries. On their departure, the Romanian delegation were seen off by the Mauritanian delegation led by the secretary general of the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy. [Text] [AB141955 Nouakchott CHAAB in French 1 Feb 80 p 1 AB]

JAPANESE LOAN--The Overseas Economic Fund of Japan has granted a loan of \$16 million to Mauritania to finance the Guelbs project. This was revealed by the administrator director general of the National Industrial and Mining Company, Snim-Sem on his arrival from Japan. This is the last loan to be granted to Snim-Sem for the financing of the project. [AB141955 Nouakchott CHAAB in French 5 Feb 80 p 4 AB]

CSO: 4400

PLANNING MINISTRY PUBLISHES POPULATION FIGURES

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 27 Jan 80 p 1

[Text]

Abu Dhabi, Jan. 26 (Ittihad): The population of the United Arab Emirates at the end of December 1979 was estimated at 891,590 including 627,980 males and 263,600 females, according to publication of the Central Statistics Department of the Planning Ministry.

The publication categorised the population according to ages as follows:

Those from one to four years old numbered 105,640 of whom 45,030 were males and 51,610 females, constituting 11.85 per cent of the total.

Five to nine years: 78,830 including 40,880 males and 37,950 females (8.48 per cent).

10 to 14 years: 62,250, of whom 43,080 are males and 28,170 females (6.98 per cent).

15 to 24 years: 74,060 of whom 28,410 are males and 47,640 females (18.52 per cent).

25 to 34 years: 238,240 including 183,480 males and 34,760 females (26.72 per cent).

35 to 44 years: 133,040, including 108,260 males and 24,780 females (14.82 per cent).

45 to 54 years: 80,420 including 48,430 males and 13,990 females (8.78 per cent).

55 to 64 years: 24,430, including 15,930 males and 8,500 females (2.74 per cent).

65 to 74 years old: 10,770, including 6,280 males and 4,490 females (1.21 per cent).

75 to 84 years old: 3,460, including 1,950 males and 1,500 females (0.29 per cent).

85 and above: 470, including 260 males and 220 females (0.05 per cent).

The categorisation showed that those aged 25 to 34 formed the majority of the population while the old, aged 85 and above, represented the lowest percentage.

CSO: 4820

SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY TEAM STUDIES FAMILIES

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 3 Feb 80 p 3

[Article by Amin Mohamed Amin]

[Text]

Abu Dhabi, Feb. 2 (Zahra Al Khateeb): A team of researchers from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has carried out the first study on the family situation in the UAE. The study covered 559 persons of 81 nationality living in three localities of Abu Dhabi city as also 49 persons of different nationalities working for them.

The study indicated the high rate of remarriage among men and women in one family. The rate among men was 41 to 56 per cent while it was 22 per cent among women.

The rate of polygamy among men was 18 per cent and remarriage among divorcees and widows was 13 per cent.

The study specified two reasons for the phenomenon of polygamy in one family in the capital. Firstly, the speed of divorce and the inclination of men to marry more than one wife was 22 per cent. This rate was 14 per cent among women.

Secondly, the death of either of the couple. The rate of second marriage among men was nine per cent, but the rate among women dipped to 6.52 per cent.

The study shows the existence of 30 divorce cases among men and women in the 81 sample families which constituted 18 per cent of the total individuals of the families. This

is a dangerous social phenomenon which should be immediately tackled because it has negative impacts on the society from the psychological, social, moral, educational, security and economic points of view.

Divorce has many dimensions. Its impacts are not limited to the couple but reach their children and the society.

The separation of the couple and the distribution of children between them, the spread of polygamy and the emergence of stepfathers and stepmothers have all resulted in unstable family relations and the frustration of children.

Researchers have indicated that instability in family relations has led to delinquency of many children.

The comprehensive study proposed by Fawad Al Azami of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry should include the identification of divorce, the reasons which led to divorce, the psychological, social and economic factors behind such a phenomenon and the number of children who may suffer from such a situation.

The study showed that in one family females outnumbered males by 54 per cent.

Female social researchers depended on women in estimating their ages as also those of their husbands. It was

observed that the age of most women ranged from 16 to 35 years while that of their husbands was 40 and above.

As regards the sources of income, it was found that public posts were the basic source of income to the majority, supplemented by subsidies from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and rents paid by tenants.

Despite the prominent commercial activity in the country, the study showed that only 20 families which represented 24.69 per cent of the sample families worked in trade.

The general level of education among men was low and it was still lower among women. Of the families surveyed, only one national woman had a university degree and three women had primary education. But it was found that there was an increasing demand for children's education.

As regards housing, it was found that on an average two persons used a room except servants. Families preferred low-cost houses and planted the compound with date palms and flowers. It was found that 35 families had their own cattle and poultry.

Those who married more than once among both men and women numbered 52. The rate among men was 18 per cent and cases of remarriage after divorce or widowhood constituted 13 per cent. Seventeen men were divorced while the number for women was 13.

The study showed that all the houses surveyed had modern electrical devices. All the families followed TV programs in preference to radio programs. Fortyone girls were willing to take part in social development activities provided they were held during the day.

The study has called for improvements in housing, the establishment of cultural and sports clubs and increasing the number of TV programs to cover religious and social issues.

An Analysis of the study shows that given certain health facilities the women could contribute to a rise in the country's population.

The study also showed the inclination of the younger generation towards education, particularly boys, and this should be exploited by the authorities to eliminate absenteeism and drop-outs in schools.

CSO: 4820

ABU DHABI ANNOUNCES 1980 DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Public Works Plans

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 28 Jan 80 p 3

[Text]

Abu Dhabi, Jan. 27 (WAM): The Executive Council chaired by Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed today approved Abu Dhabi annual development plan for 1980 with a total of Dh. 7.453 billion compared to Dh. 6.2 billion last year.

The plan allocates Dh. 1.775 billion for Public Works Department projects, Dh. 1.825 billion for Electricity and Water, Dh. 1.83 billion for the Municipality and Town Planning, Dh. 780 million for Al Ain Municipality, Dh. 220 million for the office of the Ruler's Representative in the Eastern Region, Dh. 364 million for the Finance Department and Dh. 227 million for the Amiri Court.

It also allocated Dh. 182 million for the remaining government departments in addition to Dh. 250 million as general reserve.

The Council approved several development projects which include 60 low-cost houses at Al Maqam area with a total outlay of Dh. 12 million, new offices for the Municipality in Al Ain and extra works for 120 residential villas in Abu Dhabi at a total cost of Dh. 21 million.

The projects also include the expansion of the water network in Abu Dhabi at a cost of Dh. 6,500,000, the construction of a road to Bida Bint Saud village at a cost of Dh. 10 million and the construction of a mosque in Al Hadimat area in Abu Dhabi.

The Council also decided to invite consultants to design and execute several other projects in the emirate.

These projects include the use of sewerage water in irrigation and agricultural works in Al Ain, the maintenance of the Amiri Court (the Fort Palace) to preserve its traditional heritage and the project of the Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council Court.

The Council gave its consent to the payment of final instalments due to contractors who have completed the projects assigned to them.

Transport Plans

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 29 Jan 80 p 3

[Text]

Abu Dhabi, Jan. 28 (WAM): The transport and roads sector was allocated Dh. 2.62 billion out of the Dh. 7.453 billion approved for Abu Dhabi development plan for 1980. The sum includes allocation for construction and improvement of roads, marine and air transport and Al Ain airport project.

The electricity sector was given Dh. 1.24 billion to construct power stations in the various parts of the emirate and for future expansions and Dh. 967.4 million was allocated for the public buildings sector which

include the construction of government buildings, police premises and markets.

The sewerage sector was given Dh.817.8 million, water projects Dh.770 million and tourism Dh.479.2 million. Allocation for the tourism sector includes the construction of deluxe hotels and rest houses in Al Ain and the western region.

The share of the housing sector totalled Dh.472.8 million and that of the health sector Dh.233.4 million. Health projects include the completion of big hospitals in Al Ain and Al Mafrah and smaller hospitals and clinics in the remote areas.

The share of agricultural sector totalled Dh.421 million which includes allocation for afforestation, beautification of towns and planting trees around them. The education sector was given Dh.3 million and Dh.200 million was set aside as a reserve for projects.

Town, Other Planning

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 1 Feb 80 p 2

[Text]

Abu Dhabi, Jan. 31 (Ittihad): The Abu Dhabi development plan for the current year has allocated Dh. 1.775 billion to the Public Works Department.

The amount has been distributed as follows:

Government Buildings Department Dh. 670,376,000; Transport and Services Department Dh. 1,100,100,000 and Electricity and Water Department Dh. 1,825 million.

The other major allocation is Dh. 1,830 million to the Abu Dhabi Municipality and Town Planning Department.

The break up of this allocation is : traffic and roads section Dh. 662,542,000; agriculture section (gardens) Dh. 133,835,000; forest section Dh. 78,174,000; municipality's engineering section Dh. 229,901,000; town planning department Dh. 114,210,000 and the sewerage committee Dh. 612,235,000.

A sum of Dh. 220,625,000 has been allocated to the Court of the Ruler's Representative in the Eastern Region.

This has been distributed as follows: Department of Underground Water Dh. 7,182,000; Department of Tourism and Archaeology Dh. 13,613,000; Forest Department Dh. 26,788,000 and Housing Section Dh. 173,42,000.

A sum of Dh. 780,423,00 has been allocated for Al Ain Municipality. This has been distributed as follows: Municipality engineering and road section Dh. 482,60,000; gardens section Dh. 80 million; zoo Dh. 18,363,000 and the sewerage committee Dh. 200 million.

The other allocations are: Agriculture Department Dh. 61,480,000; Amiri Court Dh.

277,432,000; Police Directorate Dh. 9,83,000; Seaports Department Dh. 2,444,000; Finance Department Dh. 364,300,000; Planning Department Dh. 202,500,000 and Information Ministry Dh. 103,92,000.

CSO: 4820

DUBAI TO RE-EXPORT JAPANESE GOODS TO IRAN

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 29 Jan 80 p 1

[Article by Maruf Khwaja]

[Text]

Dubai, Jan. 28: Dubai's re-exports to Iran which almost touched the billion-dirham mark last year, an all-time record despite the unsettled economic conditions in that country, could receive a further boost very shortly if Japan goes ahead with reported plans to place an embargo on exports to Iran.

Indications of Japan's intentions believed to be related to the economic pressure that the United States is applying to secure the release of hostages held in Tehran, have been received by a number of leading import houses in Dubai from their Japanese suppliers.

Usually reliable trade sources told Emirates News that the Japanese government had informed manufacturers of electronic and electrical products as well as textiles and automobiles of a decision that would with effect from February 1 suspend exports to Iran. The Japanese companies had in turn informed importers and agents in Dubai.

An immediate result of the embargo, if it takes effect, as reportedly planned, would be that unable to import direct from Japan, Iranian merchants will be taking all their requirements of Japanese products from the free market in Dubai.

Consequently top trading establishments here have prepared to substantially increase their orders for Japanese goods to meet the expected rise in demand from Iran.

Several executives of the main Japanese firms have made visits to Dubai recently and according to business houses here, most of them have been concerned with trading strategies designed to meet the post-embargo situation. The head of one of Japan's largest electronic goods manufacturers is also due here in a couple of days.

Trading sources expected demand to be highest in electronic goods which registered the steepest rise in re-exports last year. But the high estimates are, however, tempered with the realisation that Iranian merchants importing from Dubai, especially during 1979, have tended to go in for cheaper manufactures of Taiwanese, Hong Kong and South Korean origin.

This the sources attribute to the almost 50 per cent decline in the purchasing power and exchange value of Iranian currency which has put the more expensive Japanese goods out of reach.

One aspect of Iranian purchases in the Dubai market that intrigues exporters here is the very high

number of black and white television sets that are being bought. According to one trade source, 25,000 to 30,000 sets were being sent to Iran every month last year. Since most of Iran's television stations now broadcast colour programs, the sources here conclude that the black and white sets are being re-exported to some other countries in exchange for items that are in short supply in Iran itself.

An analysis of trade figures for 1979 reveals that the increase in re-exports to Iran has been the highest in food-stuffs - more than 100 per cent from Dh. 163.6 million in 1978 re-exports and exports rose last year to Dh. 304.7 million. These figures, however, are for 11 months until November. Estimates for the whole year of exports and re-exports taking the December figures as an average of 11 months would add up to a phenomenal Dh. 922 million as compared to Dh. 573 million for 1978. The volume of certain items has plummeted. Crude materials and chemicals have sharply declined and so has machinery and transport equipment, all related to the depressed state of Iran's industry.

The overall effect in Dubai of any Japanese embargo on Iran would clearly be of a short duration since it is reportedly linking with the hostages

issue. Indeed if an effective move is made to settle the problem as Iran's President-elect has indicated, Japan's embargo plan could even be called off. Even so a number of non-Japanese exporters of electronic goods, appliances and foodstuffs are stepping up their contacts with Dubai merchants in the hope of sharing in some of the trade bonanza that can be seen on the horizon.

Although many business houses are looking forward to the economic opportunity some have expressed reservations about Dubai's capacity for handling the expected volume of business, particularly in relation to availability of sufficient dock and warehousing labour. The present strength of such labour may well be sufficient to handle the current volume of shipping, exports and

forwarding but should this volume increase substantially the problem would arise of finding enough labourers many of whom are said to have gone underground for fear of arrest under immigration laws or have been deported or are detained pending deportation.

CSO: 4820

DUBAI BANK RECORDS HIGH PROFITS

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 26 Jan 80 p 3

[Text]

Dubai, Jan. 25: The National Bank of Dubai, one of the country's oldest indigenous financial institutions, recorded its highest ever level of profits at Dh. 60.120 million for 1979 and proposed a dividend of 25 per cent at Dh. 33.871 million to shareholders for the year just ended, according to the bank's 16th annual financial statement.

At the same time the bank, incorporated in 1963 under the Ruler's charter, decided to increase its authorized capital from Dh. 45,162,280 to Dh. 135,486,680 by the creation of an additional 985,000 ordinary shares of Dh. 100 each and an additional 265,000 "A" ordinary shares of the same amount.

At an extra-ordinary general

meeting, shareholders also approved the capitalization of 90,324,400 dirhams of the General Reserve by the issue of two fully paid bonus shares for every one held at Nov. 27 last.

With 26 million dirhams transferred to the general reserve at the end of 1979, bank's total assets now stand at Dh. 3.583 billion as against Dh. 2.225 billion on Dec. 31, 1978.

According to the balance sheet, cash, balances with banks and money at call and short notice rose from Dh. 364,648 million in 1978 to Dh. 1.701 billion at the end of the last year. Statutory deposits with the UAE Currency Board also increased from Dh. 115.239 million to Dh. 154.538 million while deposits with banks

went up from Dh. 95.518 million to Dh. 492.566 million. Fixed assets registered a rise in the comparative period from Dh. 14.764 million to Dh. 27.472 million.

CSO: 4820

DUTCH SEEK INCREASED TRADE WITH DUBAI

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 29 Jan 80 p 3

[Text]

Dubai, Jan. 28: Holland Expo, the floating exhibition of Dutch products which visited the Gulf and Dubai early last year, is still providing trade leads to many of the businessmen and industrialists who participated in it. This is evidenced in the visit which began here yesterday of a mixed "follow-up mission" of Dutch businessmen who are pursuing contacts made by local traders when the floating exhibition came to Dubai or who are looking for new openings.

But another reason for Dutch concentration in this region appears to be a continuous decline for the past three years in the volume of exports to Dubai. From 440 million dollars worth in 1977, the exports fell to 414 million in 1978 and further to a little over 350 million last year. And this decline, substantial enough in dollar value, is really greater when seen in the light of the depreciating value of the dollar and the rise in price generally of European manufactures.

Even so, the Dutch mission comprising 14 members and sponsored by the Netherlands Council

for Trade Promotion, hopes to go away at the end of a four-day UAE visit with substantial orders for products ranging from foodstuffs to industrial equipment, electrical and electronic goods and construction and allied materials. One company is also hoping to interest local entrepreneurs in a joint venture to produce a range of baby food, confectionery and luxury foods at an appropriate plant in the UAE. The mission which met officials of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday, is making contacts with Dubai businessmen and hope to do the same when it visits Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

Whatever the present level of Dutch exports to Dubai, Holland Expo of which the mission is a by-product, is reported to have done 50 million dollars worth of business during its voyage through the Gulf, a lot of it in Dubai. Follow-up orders are expected to continue maturing this year.

The delegation will arrive in Abu Dhabi tomorrow on a three-day visit, the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry announced in Abu Dhabi today.

The delegation comprises

representatives of leading Dutch industries producing a wide variety of manufactured goods, including chemical articles and turnkey projects, foodstuffs, equipment for slaughter houses, bird seeds and animal foods, chemicals, pressure gauges and diamonds. It will leave for Kuwait on February 1.

TURKEY TO OFFER ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 29 Jan 80 p 3

[Text]

Dubai, Jan. 28 (WAM): Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Saad Al Raghbani today received the visiting Turkish Forestry Ministry delegation led by Under-Secretary of the Ministry Ahmed Dogu.

The meeting reviewed cooperation between the two countries in agricultural, water, fisheries and animal resources fields.

The delegation extended an invitation to Raghbani to visit Turkey to acquaint himself with agricultural activities.

Meanwhile, a meeting was held today between the UAE and the Turkish delegation. The UAE side was headed by Assistant Under-Secretary of Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry Humaid Abdulla Al Matrovi and the Turkish side was headed by Ahmed Dogu.

Matrovi said after the meeting that the meeting discussed sending of UAE agricultural guidance holders of forest institute diploma from Syria to complete their study in Turkey as well as training some nationals in the fields

of green fodder production.

He added that the Turkish delegation has offered to cooperate in the fields of agricultural, forests, water and soil research and animal production as well as in setting up agricultural units and institutes in the UAE.

Matrovi said that the Turkish side also offered to help in training technicians and experts and called for establishing cooperation in the fields of soil and underground water researches and to fight desert encroachment as Turkey had huge technical abilities in this field.

The meeting also discussed the export of agricultural and forest products to the UAE, cooperation in agricultural guidance, production and marketing and the setting up of a joint project for vegetation and fruits production.

Matrovi said that the Turkish side welcomed UAE students and technicians to study in Turkish agricultural and veterinary colleges and institutes.

The visiting delegation also offered

help to establish experimental farms in the UAE.

Matrovi said the two sides had also discussed the import of (Al Ovein) sheep to the UAE.

He added that the Turkish side had proposed training of UAE nationals in Turkish forests institutes and establishing forests research unit in the UAE.

The two sides will meet on Thursday to sign the communiqué to be released by the two sides.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

ABU DHABI HEALTH SERVICES--Health Services in Abu Dhabi emirate recorded substantial expansion in 1978, according to a report released here. The number of beds in the emirate's hospital rose to 1,482 in 1978 as against 517 beds in 1974. The number of doctors rose from 131 in 1974 to 462 in 1978 while the number of patients cured rose from 22,688 in 1974 to 41,709 in 1978. During 1978, the operations performed were 17,498 as against 9,999 in 1974. Health certificates issued in 1978 totalled 13,901 as against 4,018 certificates issued in 1974. The number of private clinics rose from 19 in 1974 to 66 in 1978 while the number of doctors working in them rose from 29 to 85. The report said that the emirate's hospitals admitted 17,235 male patients in 1978 as against 8,219 in 1974. In 1978, the number of female patients treated was 24,374 as against 14,469 in 1974. Consultant doctors working in government hospitals rose from 18 to 45, specialists from 33 to 93, general doctors from 71 to 293 and dentists from nine to 31 during the year under review. [Text] [Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 2 Feb 80 p 3]

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DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROVIDES SOLID GROUND FOR GROWTH

Beirut THE ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English 19 Jan 80 pp 3-6

[Text] The North Yemeni economy has realized tangible progress in all economic sectors and activities during the past few years. The development program for 1973-76 was important in reorganizing the country's economic policy and development, and this period was followed by the issuance of the five year development plan for the years 1976-77 up to 1980-81.

The plan stressed reforming natural and human resources and building basic economic structures, as well as improvement in the peoples' living conditions by giving priority to basic needs such as foodstuffs, medical services, education, instruction, and increase productivity in production sectors. The plan also aimed at raising the Gross National Product to 8.2 per annum... It specified investment opportunities in the economy's basic sectors, specifically in the fields of transport communications, agriculture, industry, education, housing and health. Total investments until the plans end are projected to reach 3.5 bn US dollars.

A brief look at the stated goals of development during those years reveals optimism in the basic sectors' figures, implemented during the first years of the plan.

Agriculture: Production is estimated to grow during the five years lapse at the following ratios: maize and millet 21%; Syria corn 53%; barley 11%; wheat 146% due to the rising demand; cotton 150%; oil crops 96%; dry beans 78%; tobacco 50%; vegetables 285%; potatoes 373%; coffee 33% and fruits 26%. It is planned to expand irrigable areas by 30%, the use of fertilisers by 286%, chemical insecticides by 412%, to increase the number of agricultural trucks to 216% and veterinary medicines by 167%.

Animal production: Milk production will grow by 11%, egg by 12%, meat by 18%, skins by 10% and fish by 50%.

Mineral Wealth: It is planned to resume activities in old mines to produce a minimum of 100 tons of copper, and a similar volume of iron, to make a first step towards mineral industrialization, cooperatively with world companies.

Manufacturing industries: The plan aims at producing glassware, canned fish, cotton yarn ready for sale, woolen and cotton tissues, iron, cement, marble, and granite. The private sector has acquired permits to establish industrial enterprises producing 900 tons of dairy products, 30,000 tons of vegetable grease, 1.5 mn units of underwear, 663,000 tons of construction stones, 28 mn bricks, 2.5 mn sq metres of eyed skins, 12,000 bottles of oxygen and acetylene, and 465 tons of houseware.

Electricity Sector: Plans to generate power at a ratio of 240% over that which already exists.

Water: Consumption in the main cities alone will rise by 278%, and also the supply provided by the countryside water projects, of these, 125 are integrated water projects; 150 are designed to improve water resources in the countryside; 75 for the digging of potable wells; and 105 for digging irrigation wells. In addition are the private sector's project to excavate 500 irrigation wells.

Roads: Asphalt roads will lengthen by 75%, and secondary ones by 145%. Preliminary roads will undergo a five-fold expansion in length.

Telecommunications: Central posts volume will increase by 165%

Export-Import Facilitation: Loading and unloading capacity in ports will rise by 330%.

Encouragement of Agriculture and Industry: Agricultural lending up till the end of the plan will reach 250 mn Yemeni Riyals, and industrial lending to 150 mn riyals.

Instruction: The number of students in the preliminary phase of education will increase by 69%; in the preparatory phase by 159%; in the secondary by 139%; and in the technical by 297%. During the plan 91,000 students with preliminary study certificates will graduate; 29,000 with preparatory diplomas; 9,500 with secondary scientific; 3,130 with secondary literary; 1,850 from primary teachers' institutes; 820 from general teachers' institutes; 874 from regulatory technical training institutes and 16,800 from non-regulatory technical training programs besides the schools for eliminating illiteracy. The plan gives the attention to broadening the preliminary study basis in quality and quantity. In Sanaa University, the number of regular students will rise to more than 5 000, a 100 increase.

Health: 400,000 children are getting vaccinated, so that a reduction is to be observed in the tuberculosis cases by 20%, bilharzia by 30% and malaria by 50%. Hospital beds will increase by 74%.

In order to implement these optimistic projections, the government has prepared 170 essential projects in several fields.

Agriculture

The most important project in this sector is the integrated agricultural development plan in the southern heights, and in Hujja, Meh Witt, Khulan, Bani Hashish, Reda'a, Sanaa, Su'da and al Al-Ahjar, as well as irrigation projects in Zebeid, Moor and Ramaa valleys, in Siham, Sardud, Russyan, and in the valleys of Al-Khared, Al-Juf, Ubeida, Muraib, Banaa, and La'a.

Another important project is the integrated plan to develop animal wealth, including farms for cows, sheep, dairy products, poultry and fodder production, veterinary services and fish wealth projects such as construction of small fishing ports and the establishment of shrimp processing factories and the development of traditional fishing. Twenty pilot centers have been established besides the veterinary centers in Aba quarantine in Dhabab, and the rural development projects in Burda'a and Qa'al Boun. The five dams of the Zeibeid valley have been accomplished, being included in the Tuhama development project as well as Artesian wells excavated.

Animal wealth development is encouraged by the actual implementations of special farms for breeding cattle in Jarabe, the automatic abattoir in Sanaa, the meat market at Bab Al Yemen in Sanaa, and the poultry productive project in Rawdah, including the automatic abattoir and the fodder producing unit. The program of widening the spectrum of wheat seeds was implemented; this will increase the productivity of this important crop. Some species of barley, maize, millet and Syrian corn were also chosen for special attention. The choice was also made for developing such crops as grapes, bananas, lemons, nuts and apples and also to construct the Agricultural Progress Center in Dhumar, develop a potato project for implementation and subsequent mechanisation. In the agricultural lending field, loans were extended to buy machines and pumps; for land reclamation; poultry provision and the improvement of cotton and date palms.

Cereals: Construction of 20,000 ton absorption silos in Hudaida, with annex constructions for unloading grain and seven regional silos. Also projected are the construction of two bakeries of daily capacity 10 tons each, Sanaa and Ta'az, another one in Hudaida and 1 ton capacity bakeries in every other Yemeni city.

Industry: The plan concentrated on the expansion in basic industries such as: the expansion of the cement factory in Bajel; construction of a new cement factory in Uman of 500,000 tons capacity; another factory for the production of lime in Bajel; a project for medium and thin cotton yarns at Hudaida; a factory for spinning and weaving cotton and mixed cloths in Dhumar; a paper factory in Zebeid; a factory for fertilizer-mixing in Sulaif; a glass factory in Su'da; and one for medicines in Sanaa. In addition, there are a number of industrial projects established by the government in participation with the private sector, including projects for woolen clothes and knitted garments at Dhumar; cast iron, smelting and shaping in Hudaida; insecticides in Sanaa; and agricultural machinery and car maintenance in Hudaida.

The establishment of a large industrial sector needs development of electricity and an increase in generation capacity to provide for the needed expansion of different industrial projects. Plans are to implement a central generation station at Hudaida with a 75 MW capacity, with a related chief transformer station and high frequency lines that will connect the station to different main districts in Sanaa and Uman, and to enhance power in the main regions (Sanaa, Ta'az and Hudaida) by 22,500 KW. Among the projects approved are the electricity complex in Sanaa which involves the erection of a generating station of 31MW capacity and a station for receiving and transmitting intensive frequent current; besides a project to improve distribution networks in the main cities; and that of extending electricity to rural areas in Hudaida, Bajel, Sulaif, Zebeid, and the nearby cities of Munakha, Sanaa, Dhumar, Ta'az, Abb Al Mukha, Uman, Su'da, Al-Baida, and Ma Ma'reb. Another project is designed to improve the existing current at Huth, Hujja, and Meh Witt. With respect to dams, five large ones will be constructed in the large valleys, as well as fifty medium and small size ones in different areas.

Transport and Communications

Highway projects attract the main share of investments where the projected road lengths reach 3400 km; out of which 772 km will be for roads under construction; 2648 km for new roads; and 561 km for subsidiary roads. Plans are laid for projects on road maintenance, improvement and repair, besides the 5,000 km roads due to be completed by the Public Confederation of Development Organizations.

As for communications, 70 new telephone units are planned to be established in Sanaa, Ta'az, Hudaida, Abb, Dhumar, Turba, Hujja, Su'da, Munakha, Meh Witt, Uman, Radaa'a, Al-Baida, Al-Mukha, Bajel, Sulaif, Kanawess and Zeidiah, so that the number of the lines will rise to 46,000. Also, there are the implementation of the automatic response project where contributors communicate by phone directly and that of radio connections and loaded channels sets that will transfer radio and television transmissions and telephone services by direct communication.

Actually, ports are subject to many retarding factors. The plan foresees solutions and progressive means to absorb development by concentrating on the development of the Hudaida port by establishing yards for unloading, and warehouses, as well as improving buildings and machinery, deepening the berth, and constructing provisional quays of 400m length and a floating quay.

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